BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

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- **Labour income in B.C. rises 0.9% in the second quarter**
- **Median wait times for non-emergency surgery increase to 6.0 weeks in 2011**
- **Economic activity in Canada increases 0.5% in the second quarter**

The Economy

- **Wages, salaries and benefits earned by workers in the province rose 0.9% (*seasonally adjusted*) in the second quarter of 2012.** This increase was well ahead of the pace set in the previous quarter (+0.4%). Total labour income earned in Canada expanded 1.2% during the quarter, with the largest increases registered in Newfoundland and Labrador (+2.3%), Alberta (+2.1%), and Saskatchewan (+1.8%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **On a year-over-year basis, total lumber production at sawmills in British Columbia rose 3.6% (*unadjusted*) between June 2011 and June 2012.** During the first six months of 2012, the volume of softwood and hardwood lumber produced by sawmills in B.C. expanded by 4.3% compared to the same period one year earlier. At the national level, lumber production increased 9.1% between June 2011 and June 2012. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Health

- **Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of British Columbia's population who reported having a regular family physician fell from 90.2% to 85.2%.**[1,2] Compared to the rest of the country, B.C.'s share of the population with a regular physician was in line with the national average (85.3%), but well ahead of those in Quebec (75.6%), Alberta (79.3%), and Saskatchewan (81.2%). The provinces with the largest proportions of its population reporting to a regular family doctor were Nova Scotia (93.0%), New Brunswick (92.7%), Ontario (91.7%), and Newfoundland and Labrador (91.0%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Tourism

- **During the first quarter of 2012, the number of overnight trips from the United States to Canada increased 4.9% compared to the first quarter of 2011.** While the number of cross-border trips to visit friends and family dipped slightly (-0.5%), overnight stays for both business (+7.1%) and pleasure (+5.8%) purposes climbed. Overnight trips to Canada from countries other than the U.S. rose 6.4% during the first quarter, mainly due to a jump in the number of trips dedicated to visiting friends and family (+12.0%) and pleasure (+8.5%) purposes.

  Canadians made approximately 8.2 million overnight trips during the first quarter of 2012, up 7.2% from the first quarter of 2011. Travel to the U.S. accounted for the largest share (61%) of total trips abroad, with roughly two-thirds (66%) of overnight stays to the U.S. being for pleasure. Florida, New York, and Washington remained the most popular states for overnight visits by Canadians. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Growth in spending by Canadians travelling abroad (+1.5% *seasonally adjusted*) outpaced the increase in receipts from foreigners travelling to Canada (+0.8%) between the first and second quarters of 2012.**

[1] Based on a household population aged 15 years and older.
[2] "Regular family physician" refers to a family or general physician seen for most of an individual's routine care (e.g. annual check-ups, blood tests, flu shots, etc.).

Report — No article this issue

Did you know...

In 2011, there were 1,935 beekeepers in B.C. who managed 38,159 bee colonies that produced 828 metric tonnes of honey.

Data Source: SC Cat. no. 23-221-X

The effect was a widening of Canada's international travel deficit with the rest of the world ($4.2 billion). Canada's travel deficit with both the U.S. ($3.3 billion) and the rest of the world ($0.9 billion) expanded during the second quarter of 2012.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Real Estate Outlook

- **The British Columbia Real Estate Association (BCREA) is expecting residential re-sales to decline 4.4% in 2012, before rebounding 7.5% in 2013.** The main cause cited for the expected drop in re-sales in 2012 is a weak year in Greater Vancouver, where the number of units is predicted to decline 14.7%. A strong recovery, however, is forecast for the area in 2013, driven by expected strong employment growth and continued low mortgage rates. *Data Source: BCREA*

The Nation

- **The Canadian economy expanded 0.5% (*seasonally adjusted, in 2002 dollars*) during the second quarter of 2012, matching increases in each of the two previous quarters.** Much of the growth was the result of a 1.6% increase in business sector spending, particularly on non-residential structures (+2.7%) and machinery and equipment (+1.8%). Consumer spending rose 0.3% higher during the second quarter, while investment in capital (−0.2%) and spending on goods and services (−0.1%) by the government sector edged lower. Overall, final domestic demand (total spending by consumers, businesses and governments) was up 0.4%. Growth of imports (+1.6%) continued to outpace that of exports (+0.2%) for a second straight quarter.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Compared to the same month a year ago, prices received by Canadian manufacturers, as measured by the industrial product price index (IPPI), were up 0.3% in July.** While the IPPI continued to climb, its ascent has slowed considerably since the fall of 2011. Looking at B.C. specific commodities, producer prices for softwood lumber continued to climb (+10.5%), while prices for pulpwood chips fell slightly (−2.8%).

  It should be noted, however, that the value Canada's currency fell relative to the U.S. dollar between July 2011 and July 2012. Excluding exchange rate effects, producer prices would have fallen 1.2% rather than increased 0.3%. *Data Source: SC Cat. no. 62-011-X*

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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also on the Internet at **www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca** or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/2012	% change on one year ago
BC	4,606.5	1.0
Canada	34,755.6	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 8)		
(BC - at market prices)	2010	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	203,147	5.9
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	167,140	3.0
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,899	1.4
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	26,166	2.2
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jun 2012	3,198	0.0
Merchandise Exports - Jun 2012	2,581	-0.5
Retail Sales - Jun 2012	5,089	-1.0
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Jul 2012)	one year ago	% change
BC	1.1	1.8
Vancouver	1.4	1.9
Victoria	1.0	1.6
Canada	1.3	2.3
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Jul 2012	% change on prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	-14.5	
Labour Force - BC	2,480.1	-0.2
Employed - BC	2,307.7	-0.6
Unemployed - BC	172.4	5.4
		Jun 2012
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.0	6.6
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.3	7.2
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Aug 29/2012	Aug 31/2011
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.10	3.50
- 5 year	5.24	5.39
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Aug 29/2012	Aug 31/2011
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9875	0.9784
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0106	1.0210
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jul 2012	% change on one year ago
BC	848.01	1.7
Canada	867.33	4.0

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Solid Waste Generation Forecast

This report highlights three projection scenarios with varying degrees of measures taken to divert waste from British Columbia landfills. The report includes a summary of the methodology and the results of the forecast for each scenario from 2010 through 2025. Read this at:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/EnvironmentalStatistics/Analysis.aspx

Census 2011 Fast Facts

The age-sex data from the 2011 Census have been released. For the first time, since reporting began, persons 65 years of age and older outnumbered 0 to 14 year-olds in BC. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/2011Census.aspx

Follow @BCStats on Twitter

The central statistical agency of the Province of BC is regularly updating and interacting on the Twitter social media platform – connect with us:
https://twitter.com/#!/bcstats

New RSS Feeds From BC Stats

BC Stats has published several new RSS feeds:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Help/RSSFeeds.aspx

The 2011 National Household Survey

Release dates have been set as:

May 8, 2013
- Immigration; Citizenship; Place of birth; Language; Ethnic origin; Visible minorities; Religion; Aboriginal Peoples

June 26, 2013
- Labour; Education; Place of work; Commuting to work; Mobility and migration; Language of work

August 14, 2013
- Income; Earnings; Housing; Shelter costs

http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/index-eng.cfm

Released this week by BC Stats

- Business Indicators, August 2012

Released next week

- Labour Force Statistics, August 2012
- Earnings and Employment Trends, Aug 2012

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